

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SS-15 L-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02
/063 W

-----094528 080520Z /10

R 070555Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3541

INFO AMEMBASSY SUVA

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE WELLINGTON 2626

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, CW, NZ, US

SUBJECT: DISPUTED ISLANDS: NORTHERN COOK GROUP

REF: (A) STATE 078913 (NOTAL), (B) STATE 042641 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO CONFIRM
NEWSPAPER STORIES REGARDING A RECENT REAFFIRMATION BY
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE US CLAIM TO CERTAIN OF THE
NORTHERN COOK ISLANDS GROUP. END SUMMARY.

2. THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD HAS ASKED THE EMBASSY FOR
INFORMATION ON A COOK ISLANDS NEWS (JUNE 20) RE-RUN
OF A HONOLULU ADVERTIZER ARTICLE OF JUNE 13 STATING
THAT THE US STATE DEPARTMENT HAD REAFFIRMED THE US
CLAIM UNDER THE GUANO ACT TO THE ISLANDS OF PENRHYN,
PUKA PUKA, MANIHIKI, AND RAKAHANGA IN THE NORTHERN
COOK ISLAND GROUP. THE COOK ISLANDS NEWS
ARTICLE ALSO CARRIED A COMMENT BY PREMIER SIR ALBERT
HENRY TO THE EFFECT THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHY THE
DEPARTMENT HAD TAKEN THIS ACTION. THE HERALD IS
REQUESTING CONFIRMATION OF THE CLAIM AND THE REASONS
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FOR ITS REAFFIRMATION.

3. IN A UPI - HONOLULU DATELINED STORY PUBLISHED
IN THE JUNE 7 ISSUE OF THE AMERICAN SAMOAN NEWS BULLETIN,
SIR ALBERT IS QUOTED AS SAYING, " I HAVE RECEIVED "OFFICIAL
WORD" FROM NEW ZEALAND THAT THE US HAS LISTED PENRHYN,
PUKA PUKA, AND TWO OF OUR OTHER LITTLE ISLANDS AMONG

THOSE TO WHICH IT MAY HAVE CLAIM. I SAID, " TELL THEM TO GO TO BLAZES*" MORE SOBERLY, SIR ALBERT ADDED THAT HE AND HIS CABINET HAVE DIRECTED THE NEW ZEALAND FOREIGN MINISTRY "TO TELL THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT THAT THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE ISLANDS IS NOT IN DISPUTE."

4. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE "OFFICIAL WORD" REFERRED TO BY SIR ALBERT RESULTED FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S DISCUSSIONS WITH THE NZ EMBASSY IN FEBRUARY OR THE EMBASSY'S FOLLOW-UP TO STATE 042541, WHICH SET OUT FOUR PROPOSALS TO THE GNZ DESIGNED TO NEITHER AFFIRM NOR PREJUDICE THE PARTIES' RESPECTIVE POSITIONS ON SOVEREIGNTY TO A LIST OF DISPUTED ISLANDS. THE NEWS STORIES, IN TURN, MAY HAVE BEEN BASED ON THIS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE INFORM THE EMBASSY WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN ANY REAFFIRMATION OF THE CLAIMS BY THE DEPARTMENT SUBSEQUENT TO THE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE NZ EMBASSY IN FEBRUARY. THE EMBASSY WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RECEIVING INFORMATION ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE'S CONSIDERATION OF THESE CLAIMS (SEE STATE 078913, PARA 10) AND MAPS OF THE DISPUTED ISLANDS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, ISLAND CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977WELLIN02626
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770242-0806
Format: TEL
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770780/aaaacrft.tel
Line Count: 85
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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SAS ID: 1930813
Secure: OPEN
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Subject: DISPUTED ISLANDS: NORTHERN COOK GROUP
TAGS: PBOR, CW, NZ, US
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Type: TE
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